

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Original) An engineered carbonaceous material comprising a mixture of expanded graphite and one or more graphite materials selected from the group consisting of natural flake graphite, natural vein graphite, amorphous graphite, and synthetic graphite.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The material of claim 2 wherein [where in] the mixture comprises between 0.1 and 99.9 wt.% expanded graphite.

5-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:

a cathode comprising manganese dioxide and carbon particles, the carbon particles including between 25% and 75% non-expanded graphite particles by weight and between 25% and 75% expanded graphite particles by weight;

an anode;

a separator: and

an alkaline electrolyte.

23. (New) The battery of claim 22, wherein the cathode comprises between 80% and 90% manganese dioxide by weight and between 2.0% and 7.0% carbon particle by weight.

24. (New) The battery of claim 23, wherein the cathode comprises between 4.0% and 6.5% carbon particle by weight.

25. (New) The battery of claim 22, wherein the expanded graphite particles have an average particle size of between 18 microns and 30 microns.

26. (New) A cathode for a battery, comprising manganese dioxide and carbon particles, the carbon particles including between 25% and 75% non-expanded graphite by weight and between 25% and 75% expanded graphite by weight.